the network element wherein in response to requests (RQ), the objects are stored into the

memory and individual objects (MO*) are swapped out to make room for new data according to

predetermined criteria. These objects are transferred to the database (DB). Only upon reception

of a request (RQ*) for access to an object (MO*), which is no longer in the memory (MEM),

will this object (MO*) be read from the database and transferred back into the memory. The

controller manages the network element in response to these requests.